



Corres. and Mail  
**BOX AF**

*AF#2800*  
*12/10/02*  
*Recon*  
*2/27/03*  
*DBU*  
**PATENT APPLICATION**

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2871**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of

Yasunori OGAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2871

Application No.: 09/598,268

Examiner: P. Akkapeddi

Filed: June 21, 2000

Docket No.: 106187

For: LIQUID CRYSTAL DEVICE AND PROJECTOR USING THE SAME

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2002, reconsideration of the  
above-application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent  
No. 5,969,832 to Nakanishi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,179 to Yamanaka. This  
rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action recognizes that Yamanaka does not disclose that the entrance side  
substrate portion has a thickness greater than the exit side substrate portion. Applicants  
respectfully disagree the Office Action's assertion that it would have been obvious to  
combine the features of Nakanishi to provide the deficiencies of Yamanaka. MPEP §2141  
provides that the references must be considered as a whole must suggest the desirability and  
thus the obviousness of making the combination. Furthermore, the references must be  
viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision afforded by the claimed  
invention. Yamanaka is concerned with dissipating heat generated in the liquid crystal

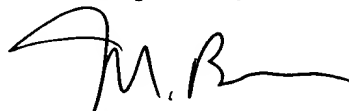
RECEIVED  
FEB 24 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

display. In the invention of claims 1, 5, 7 and 11, the thickness  $T_i$  of the entrance side substrate portion 101 is set to be larger than the thickness  $T_o$  of the exit side substrate portion 102 because light condensed by the microlens 113a impinge upon the liquid crystal layer 1-3 and the light emitted from the liquid crystal layer 103 diverges due to the action of microlens 113a. See e.g., specification at page 6, lines 25 through page 7, line 8. Yamanaka does not disclose or suggest this feature. Because Yamanaka does not recognize the problem to be solved by the invention, there can be no motivation or suggestion to combine the features of Nakanishi with Yamanaka.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton  
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MB/gam

Date: February 19, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
---